

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /075 W

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R 031549Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3367

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16268

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR WB GW GE

SUBJECT: BERLIN ROAD TRANSIT ROUTE NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) USBER 1988; (B) BONN 14162

SUMMARY: FRG REP HAS BRIEFED BONN GROUP ON BERLIN ROAD TRANSIT ROUTE NEGOTIATIONS. FRG AND GDR ARE "APPROACHING AGREEMENT" ON COST-SHARING FORMULA. FRG AND GDR HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE, HOWEVER, ON TOTAL COSTS INVOLVED. GDR HAS THUS FAR REFUSED TO DISCUSS NEW CROSSING POINTS AT HEILIGENSEE AND LICHTENRADE SAYING GAUS MUST RAISE THIS MATTER WITH GDR DEPUTY FONMIN NIER. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OCTOBER 2 BONN GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (HENZE) BRIEFED ALLIES ON FRG/GDR BERLIN ROAD TRANSIT ROUTE NEGOTIATIONS. FOCUSING ON SEPTEMBER 30 SESSION BETWEEN GAUS AND GDR DEPUTY TRANSPORT MINISTER SCHLIMPER, HENZE SAID HE DID NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION
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RE TOTAL LUMP SUM PAYMENTS, BUT THAT FRG AND GDR ARE

"APPROACHING AGREEMENT" ON A COST-SHARING FORMULA FOR THE HELMSDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN AND THE BERLINER RING.

2. HENZE SAID WHEREAS FRG AND GDR ESTIMATES RE TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECTS ARE FAR APART (GDR ESTIMATES ARE MUCH HIGHER), THEY ARE NEARING AGREEMENT ON MECHANISM BY WHICH FRG WOULD PAY 65 PERCENT OF THE COST OF RECONSTRUCTING THE HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN AND 60 PERCENT OF THE COST OF IMPROVEMENTS ON BERLINER RING (PARA 2, REFTEL A).

3. GAUS, SAID HENZE, TRIED IN SEPTEMBER 30 SESSION TO CONNECT THE ISSUE OF NEW CROSSING POINTS AT HEILIGENSEE AND LICHTENRADE WITH THE DISCUSSION OF COSTS, BUT SCHLIMPER REFUSED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER OF CROSSING POINTS STATING THAT THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE RAISED WITH NIER.

4. UK LEGAL ADVISER (EDWARDS) ASKED IF HENZE HAD YET DETERMINED WHETHER LICHTENRADE WOULD SERVE TRANSIT TRAFFIC WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE QA (PARA 3, REFTEL B). HENZE SAID HE HAD TALKED TO SEVERAL PEOPLE RE THIS QUESTION AND HAD NOT RECEIVED "CLEAR INFORMATION" IN RESPONSE TO THE UK QUESTION, WHICH HAD FIRST BEEN POSED AT THE AUGUST 28 BONN GROUP MEETING. NEVERTHELESS, IT DID "APPEAR" THAT LICHTENRADE WOULD BE USED TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON THE DREILINDEN GDR/WSB CROSSING POINT ON THE HELMSDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN.

5. US REP SAID US WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN DETERMINING EXTENT TO WHICH HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN WOULD BE REPAIRED OR RECONSTRUCTED. HENZE REPLIED THAT TOTAL COSTS HAD NOT BEEN DETERMINED, BUT THAT WORK ON THE HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN WOULD AMOUNT TO RECONSTRUCTION NOT REPAIR.

6. ALLIED REPS REPEATED INTEREST IN OBTAINING MORE INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT AS TALKS PROGRESS.

7. COMMENT: IN EARLIER BILATERAL DISCUSSION WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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LUECKING (HENZE'S SUPERVISOR), WE WERE TOLD THAT WORK ON THE AUTOBAHN WOULD BE LIMITED TO "RESURFACING." IF THIS INDEED IS THE CASE, IT WILL BE A CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION FROM EARLIER FRG PLANS FOR A THOROUGHGOING REBUILDING. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, URBAN TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BONN16268
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750344-0432
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751085/aaaacxre.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BONN 14162
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <07 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BERLIN ROAD TRANSIT ROUTE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GE, GC, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006